

We have had multiple meetings, and this hearing in Buffalo will include several Canada parliamentarians, as did the one in Seattle and British Columbia, and the one in Quebec-New York and the Vermont border.

We have huge problems on the north border that are actually growing. On the South border it has been open for a long time, and we are actually making that a little more secure. I am pleased that the Canadians are working with us, as well as, better than in the past, the Mexican authorities, although that is still problematic.

Let me talk a little bit about a few other issues. I have spent most of the time on our borders and on the transit countries, but I want to conclude here with a few minutes looking at the ONDCP reauthorization, the Office of Narcotics Drug Control Policy.

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We have to be aggressive on the domestic side as well as the interdiction side. And as we look at this reauthorization, in addition to the Colombia money we will see, in addition to the Office of Drug Control Policy and the State Department, in addition to the multiple problems in the Justice Department, drug czar John Walters oversees a broad range of programs. Several are specific inside ONDCP. One is the HIDTAs, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. To some degree this program has been diluted. While they are meritorious programs, these were supposed to provide our primary protection. And unless Members of Congress and the American people understand some of what we laid out tonight, they will not understand what the purpose of a HIDTA is.

Every area has a drug problem. Every area drug tracks. If you are in the southwest border, they will come across. If you are in Dallas, they will come through. If you are in the Midwest they are transiting through. Furthermore, if you are in a city like Chicago, you become a supplier not only to Chicago but the Midwest. If you are in a city like Fort Wayne, you become a supplier not only to Fort Wayne, but the mid-sized cities around it like Muncie, Anderson, and Warsaw. If you are in Muncie you become a supplier to the mall. So every area is a drug trafficking area.

But what was the point of this program? It was for the high intensity drug trafficking areas so we could, before it gets to the Midwest, seize the stuff at the major ports and major ports of entry. But this has become a pork program where everybody wants a HIDTA. Therefore, once everybody has it, it is not that it is not doing good work, but we are losing the point of the program which was to seize it at the highest intense area before it got to those areas.

We are going to be looking at some of those hard issues and lots of Congressmen are going to receive local pressure to say, oh, we have a drug problem. We

know that. That is why we have community drug initiatives. That is why we have all kinds of prevention programs. That is why we have drug free workplace bills. That is why we have drug free school bills. We have local law enforcement, State police. This was a program intended particularly for the southwest border and the major drug trafficking areas so that it did not overwhelm us at the local level.

Next, the National Ad Campaign. The National Ad Campaign has served a valuable function to make Americans more aware of the problems of drug use. We are inundated, with all due respect, by rock music, by much of what we see in the movies. I saw an article, I think it was yesterday, saying that we thought that the heroin look was out, but they are praising this new group that is coming in that has this emaciated death look that once again promotes intense drug use in the United States by promoting a look and an action that you get from basically destroying your body.

To combat that we have to have an organized effort such as the anti-terrorism campaign which was very successful in making that link, the current anti-marijuana campaign which is one of the least understood issues in America, the dangers of this particular hydrochloride impact marijuana has on America. We need to make sure that ad campaign is functioning and targeted. We also have a very important technology transfer program to make sure that local law enforcement gets the equipment that they need to be able to battle in these HIDTA areas and also at the local area.

I have many small towns ranging from a couple thousand people up to 15,000 people that have been particularly pleased with the technology transfer program because they would not, in their small budgets, have been able to afford the type of equipment that they need to match up with these drug trafficking organizations that have billions of dollars behind them.

So I want to conclude tonight by saying that this problem is complex. Over the next few weeks, we will be talking about this more and more on the floor as these pieces of legislation move. But what I do hope that my colleagues will not repeat on this floor is that we have failed because we have not. We have made steady progress, if you take a line with ups and downs in it for nearly 20 years. We have made steady progress in Colombia and the Andean region. But the more we squeeze the narco-traffickers, the more we squeeze the drug traffickers, the more violence there will be because we are actually hurting business. They cannot just write it off as a bad loss which they kind of do now because they abandon loads. But the more we squeeze them, they will not be able to abandon loads. The more we squeeze them the higher the prices are in the streets. The more we squeeze, the more the purity goes down, the less harmed our kids and

families and people are, the more kids will have a dad or mom home that night who is not whacked out on drugs, the safer you will be as you drive down the highway.

This is a very important effort that we were undertaking in Congress. Often it gets lost in all the others. But I hope the Members of Congress will focus on this because every dime we spend is likely to save another life in America.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GREEN of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 3:00 p.m. on account of family business.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. SANDLIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JONES of North Carolina) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIAHRT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BOOZMAN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 196. An act to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 21 minutes